UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.3/49/30
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 8 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in connection with the statement made by the representative of Bulgaria on 28 November 1994 in the Third Committee during the consideration of the item entitled "Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives" and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The above-mentioned statement contains unfounded and baseless allegations concerning the position of the Bulgarian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. To advance unjustified claims on the alleged human rights violations of the members of the Bulgarian national minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia without wishing "to go into an in-depth review of the human rights situation of the Bulgarian minority", is entirely unacceptable. Even more so since the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia circulated a document on 24 October 1994 (A/C.3/49/10) (also referred to in the statement of the Bulgarian representative), which addressed in detail the position of the Bulgarian national minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with ample illustrations of the rights and freedoms granted to them. Accordingly, it is inappropriate to allege that the human rights of the Bulgarian minority have been violated without providing arguments that would challenge the facts contained in the said document.

The Bulgarian representative claimed that their concern for the Bulgarian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is purely humanitarian. To substantiate this assertion, he expressed disappointment at the alleged stopping by "the Serbian authorities" of the humanitarian delivery to the citizens of Bosilegrad on 11 October 1994. For the sake of truth, it needs to be said that

the "humanitarian assistance" consisted of the following articles: 2,300 books, a small quantity of pencils and paper, 72 kilograms of cheese, 50 kilograms (a sack) of flour and 17 kilograms of kachkaval hard cheese. Such quantities and choice of "humanitarian assistance" can hardly meet the needs of the Bulgarian minority and even less represent a cause for concern over the alleged violation of their human rights.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia sincerely hopes that Bulgaria is truly interested in preserving the spirit of good-neighbourliness and cooperation repeatedly proclaimed as a best way to promote the position of the Bulgarian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has on several occasions expressed its readiness to discuss with the Government of Bulgaria any question that may be of importance for their mutual relations. However, to put forward baseless, arbitrary and unsubstantiated allegations surely would not contribute to the realization of good-neighbourly relations and bilateral cooperation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100 (c).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.